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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, and 14-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 14-17 have been withdrawn from prosecution. Of the remaining claims, claim 1 is independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

Support for the Amendment to independent claim 1 is found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 3-6 and page 6, lines 14-16.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takao, et al. reference in view of the Bemis reference.

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The November 2, 2004, Office Action, like the April 13, 2004, Office Action continues to ignore the Applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement.

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Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to comply with the clear requirements that are set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In particular, the Examiner has failed to comply with the requirements of the M.P.E.P. as set forth in § 707.07(f) by failing to answer all material traversed.

"Where the applicant traverses any rejection, the examiner should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it." (M.P.E.P. § 707.07(f), emphasis added).

Specifically, the Examiner continues to ignore the Applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement and is, therefore, blatantly violating the clear requirements that are set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference herein the entirety of Applicant's previous traversals of the Examiner's prima facie insufficient restriction requirement.

Applicant continues to respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and/or rejoinder of claims 14-17 for the reasons that have been previously submitted and which are incorporated herein by reference.

II. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as recited by independent claim 1, is directed to a magnetic disk apparatus which includes a plurality of disk enclosures, a plurality of first printed-circuit boards which are paired with the disk enclosures, and a second printed-circuit board which is detachably connected to the first printed-circuit board via a cable. The first printed-circuit boards mount circuits which have a first noise resistance property, and a circuit which holds parameters unique to the disk enclosure. The second

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printed-circuit board mounts circuits which have a second noise resistance property which is superior to the first noise resistance property. The second printed circuit board is also detachably connectable to an upper system. The circuits on each of the plurality of first printed-circuit boards include a recording/reproduction control circuit which controls a magnetic head.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Bemis reference would have been combined with the Takao et al. reference to form the claimed invention.

As previously explained, Applicant submits, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicant incorporates herein by reference in their entirety the traversals that were set forth in the response that was filed on December 19, 2003.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the applied references teaches or suggests a recording/reproduction control circuit on the first printed-circuit board which controls a magnetic head.

Rather, and in stark contrast, the Takao et al. reference only discloses that the first printed-circuit board includes a recording/reproduction amplifier. The Takao et al. reference does not teach or suggest anything at all that is even remotely related to a control circuit that controls a magnetic head.

Indeed, the Examiner acknowledges this fact by stating "but Takao et al. (sic) shows that signal is read from the head by circuit 7 (line 1 in [0014]) and delivered to a logic

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operation circuit 6 (line 2 in [0013])" on page 4, lines 18-19 of the November 2, 2004, Office Action.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention has a first printed-circuit board that includes a recording/reproduction control circuit which controls a magnetic head. As explained above, this feature is important for reducing the noise interference with the high-frequency signals.

In this regard, the present specification very clearly explains "Recording/reproduction of a signal to/from the storage medium is performed by the recording/reproduced signal compensation circuit and the magnetic head under the control of recording/reproducing control circuit 83 mounted on printed-circuit board 81." (Page 2, lines 3-6). The specification further explains, "[T]he functions of analog/digital converter 5 and recording/reproduction control circuit 6 are the same as those of analog/digital converter 84 and recording/reproduction control circuit 83, respectively." (Page 6, lines 14-16).

Clearly, the Takao et al. reference does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention including a recording/reproduction control circuit on the first printed-circuit board which controls a magnetic head as recited by independent claim 1.

The Bemis reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Takao et al. reference. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, and 14-17, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are

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patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/24/05

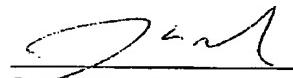


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Tianjie Chen, Group Art Unit 2652 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 24th day of January, 2005.



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